

Submitted by Steve Wade on behalf of ConocoPhillips

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ConocoPhillips Billings Refinery Relationship with the MSU Billings Process Plant Technology Program

ConocoPhillips in Montana

- The ConocoPhillips Billings Refinery has operated for more than 60 years supplying transportation fuels to the Rocky Mountain Region which includes Montana, Washington, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and North and South Dakota.
- It is a testament to the quality of its employees that it has it is a highly recognized facility and has received 2 Energy Star awards, an EPA Environmental Excellence Award and the highest safety awards given by ConocoPhillips, the State of Montana and the National Petrochemicals and Refiners Association.
- Motor Fuel produced by the refinery exceeds 220 million gallons per year (25% of the Montana Market)
- ConocoPhillips directly supports more that 400 jobs in Montana and indirectly supports thousands more.
- In 2009 \$60.8 Million of total taxes and royalties were paid by ConocoPhillips to Montana.
- ConocoPhillips Oil production in Montana in 2009 totaled 3.3 million bbls

Relationship with Montana University System

- ConocoPhillips currently employees approximately 350 employees in the Billings area. These employees are split between Refining, Upstream and Transportation. Additionally the refinery utilizes approximately 100 contractors on a regular basis.
- Over 40% of our employees are currently eligible for retirement and we project to hire 27 new employees over the next 3 years.
- ConocoPhillips hires a variety of individuals mostly including chemical or mechanical engineers, process operators, craft employees. Most of the Billings area external hiring is for process operator or craft positions. We currently have 30 employees (approx 10.3%) who have received an Associates Technology Degree. 23 of these individuals received an Associates Technology – Process Plant Degree from Montana State University – Billings.
- Over the past 20 years ConocoPhillips has provided significant financial contributions to MSU Billings. Over these many years our involvement has encompassed Faculty excellence support, advisory board support, confined space training, and scholarship programs for the Process Plant Technology Program.
- Since 1998, ConocoPhillips has offered two Process Plant Technology Scholarships. Each year these scholarships have expanded, and in 2009 ConocoPhillips incorporated a summer internship with their scholarship program. The current scholarship program covers full tuition and books and also provides part time employment at the refinery.
- For the past 20 years ConocoPhillips has sponsored a Citizens Advisory Council for the purpose of acting as a key communication link between the Billings community and the ConocoPhillips Billings Refinery on issues of mutual interest. Richard Wilson, the Process Plant Technology Program Director currently serves on the Citizens Advisory Council.
- Industry partnerships like the one with MSU Billings has helped educate workforces, enhanced local business development, created a pipeline of skilled professionals, and helped build strong communities with educated citizens. This program is very important to the continued success of the Billings Refinery.